

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph, beginning column 5, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraphs:

FIG. 32 is a cross-sectional view along line 32--32 of FIG. 31;

FIG. 33 is a perspective view of a modified embodiment of a branching trunk component, having a section of enhanced hoop strength;

FIG. 34 is a cross-sectional view of an alternate embodiment of the present invention ;
and

FIG. 35 is a cross-sectional view of another alternate embodiment of the present invention.

After the paragraph ending on column 16, line 9, please add the following new paragraph:

FIG. 34 shows an example of such a trifurcated arrangement 300, with triple lumens 302, 304, 306 while FIG. 35 shows examples of a four branched structure 400, with quadruple lumens 402, 404, 406, 408.